(b) if so, the status of its implementation; and

(c) whether there is any Bill relating to this scheme pending before the House?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) The Government has not formulated any compulsory insurance scheme for the Indian workers migrating to the Gulf countries. However, the Government proposes to constitute an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

(b) and (c) The Government has introduced the Emigration (Amendment) Bill, 2002 in the Lok Sabha on 21.11.2002 which has provisions for constitution of an Indian Overseas Workers' Welfare Fund.

House building loan/assistance to beedi workers

3036. SHRI NANDI YELLAIAH: Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any provision in the new housing policy to provide house building loan to beedi workers from the Employees Provident Fund;

(b) if so, the details thereof indicating the eligibility criteria and the rate of interest on house building loan;

(c) whether Government are running or propose to start any scheme to provide assistance to the beedi workers in house building;

(d) if so, the details thereof indicating the number of beedi workers benefited by the scheme, State-wise, including Andhra Pradesh and Maharashtra; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR (SHRI VIJAY GOEL): (a) and (b) There is no separate provision in the Employees' Provident Funds and Miscellaneous Provisions Act, 1952 for Beedi Workers. As per the existing Scheme the members of the employees' provident fund including beedi workers-with five years membership are entitled to avail benefits of widhrawal for the purchase or construction of dwelling house/flat including the acquisition of a suitable site for the purpose.

The Central Board of Trustees, Employees' provident Fund Scheme (EPF) in its 160th meeting held on 28.03.2003 has approved the Housing Scheme for the members of Employees' Provident Fund Scheme (EPF). The said scheme provides that the interest on loan will not be more than the average market rate at which housing finance is available and shall be at a rate agreed between Employees' Provident Fund Organization and the Housing Finance Agency.

(c) Yes, Sir. Under the Integrated Housing Scheme (IHS) a subsidy is provided for construction of houses to Beedi Workers at the rate of Rs. 20,000/- per house or 50% of the cost of the house, whichever is less.

(d) Statement in enclosed (*See* below).

(e) Not Applicable.

Statement

District-wise/State-wise number of houses sanctioned during the last four years for beedi workers under BWWF

		No. of Houses sanctioned during			
S. No.	Name of the State/ District	1999-2000	2000-2001	2001-2002	2002-2003
1.	Andhra Pradesh	9542	2759	428	315
2.	Assam	47	03	51	Nil
3.	Chhattisgarh	Nil	284	306	Nil
4.	Gujarat	Nil	Nil	52	Nil
5.	Karnataka	39	03	83	857
6.	Kerala	Nil	102	680	687
7.	Madhya Pradesh	2701	Nil	799	Nil
8.	Maharashtra	06	10,516	444	Nil
9.	Orissa	2953	3160	2530	1830
10.	Rajasthan	01	02	03	Nil
11.	Tamil Nadu	01	961	62	1638
12.	Uttar Pradesh	18	116	27	104
13.	West Bengal	350	197	549	Nil
14.	Bihar	Nil	Nil	Nil	311
	Grant Total	**15,658**	**18,103**	**6,014**	**5,742**